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Dusko Popov, Secret Agent For Britain in World War II

Reuter

OPIO, France — Dusko Popov, 69, a spy for Great Britain during World War II who was thought by many to have been the model for Ian Fleming's fictional secret agent James Bond, died here Friday. The cause of death was not reported.

The Yugoslav-born Mr. Popov, code-named "Tricycle" when he became a British agent in 1940, was recruited by German Army intelligence the same year. He passed Nazi secrets to Britain and gave false information to Berlin.

In mid-1941, when he warned that Japan had plans to attack the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor, the idea was rejected as improbable by the United States. The attack took place the following December.

In 1944 Mr. Popov helped per-

suade the German high command that the expected Allied invasion would come in the extreme north of France, thus diverting several divisions away from the eventual landing spot in Normandy.

He published a book in 1974 called "Spy, Counter Spy," in which he recounted some of his experiences. These included gambling \$50,000 in one night at a casino in Estoril, Portugal, under the gaze of British naval intelligence officer Fleming. Mr. Popov won, and the incident became part of Fleming's first James Bond novel, "Casino Royale."

Mr. Popov became a British subject after the war. He was the son of a wealthy Yugoslav family and was considered a playboy when he became a double agent on Britain's behalf.